

Faulk, Camilla

From: Nancy Foll [nfol@ruralresources.org]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 12:42 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: comments CcR 4.11

Dear Ms. Faulk - I am writing to have my comments submitted to the Board of Governors regarding proposed CrR4.11. I am the Director of the community-based victim services programs in Stevens County.

I think this court rule forgets that the victim is the person who "something happened to". These types of rules are disrespectful to that and treat the victim as if they need to be the defendant - all without an attorney, no representation and no rights. And then to top it off the victim would need to pay for a transcript!

Studies already have shown over and over that crime victims - especially those who have interpersonal crimes committed against them - under-report to the authorities by huge percentages.

And yes - "one of the major purposes of these interviews is for impeachment at trial if the witnesses' testimony changes" but this indicates a total lack of understanding of how the adult human mind works with regard to memory and the "triggers" that may occur when questions are asked. It also shows a lack of understanding of children and their development if one thinks that "testimony" may not change. These are people - not robots where you would expect the same thing over and over.

Witnesses now so frequently "don't want to be involved". We have had many situations where a woman was beaten while her neighbor listened or watched. When approached by law enforcement as a witness, they would say they don't want to give statement because they don't want to be involved. It is chilling to imagine how many people will not report crimes if they know that it automatically requires them to come in for taped interviews. And they will learn that if this rule is made.

The scales of justice for victims are already uneven enough. Please do not pass this rule.

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